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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/787,148

02/27/2004

Choong-Bin Lim

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30593

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03/22/2007

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

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RESTON, VA 20195

EXAMINER

SUN, SCOTT C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2182

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/22/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/787,148	LIM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Scott Sun	2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-9 and 11-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendments to the claims filed 12/26/2006 has been noted and entered. Previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 12/26/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments are summarized as:
 - a. Prior art of record does not disclose the amended claim limitation, "adaptively adjusting the buffers allocated to the endpoints" (emphasis added).
3. In response to argument 'a', examiner notes that applicant's admitted prior art discloses that the buffers are allocated to the endpoints (paragraph 23, "ping pong" buffers A and B for each endpoint). Prior art, *Terry*, further discloses that buffers can be dynamically adjusted (figure 3A, paragraphs 24-26). In combination of the references, prior art clearly teaches the claim limitation of "adaptively adjusting the buffers allocated to the endpoints" (see full rejection for specific reasoning to combine the two teachings).
4. Examiner further notes that applicant appears to argue that prior art, *Terry*, merely teaches adjusting the data flow of the buffers, or the amount of data stored in the buffers. In contract, applicant's appears to argue that the size of the buffers, or the assignment of the buffers (to endpoints) is being adjusted. However, such details are missing in the claims. Therefore, it is reminded that although the claims are interpreted

Art Unit: 2182

in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims.

See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

5. Having responded to each of applicant's arguments, examiner notes that previous grounds of rejection still apply. Minor changes are made in response to the claim amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Terry et al (PG Pub #2004/0027997).

8. Regarding claim 1, applicant's admitted prior art discloses a device (shown in prior art figures 3 and 6) for controlling a first plurality of endpoints (endpoints; figure 3) of a USB device, the device comprising: a plurality of buffers ("ping pong" buffers; figure 3, 6) allocated to the first plurality of endpoints, respectively (background; paragraph 11, 23); and an endpoint buffer controller (MCU 626; figure 6) for managing an exchange of packets between a host and the USB device (paragraphs 23-24).

Applicant's admitted prior art does not disclose explicitly obtaining buffer-utilization information or adaptively adjusting the buffers. However, Terry discloses

obtaining buffer-utilization information (status of the buffer, quality indicator) for each of endpoints (data flows to which buffers are assigned) and adaptively adjusting the buffers allocated to the endpoints based upon the buffer utilization information (paragraphs 24-26). Teachings of applicant's admitted prior art and Terry are from the same field of data buffering.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of invention to combine teachings of applicant's admitted prior art with teachings of Terry by adding the buffer adjustment logic into the buffer system of applicant's admitted prior art for the benefit of increasing performance of the transmission system (paragraph 15).

9. Regarding claim 2, applicant's admitted prior art and Terry combined disclose claim 1, and applicant's admitted prior art further discloses wherein each for the plurality of buffers has a plurality of units and a maximum size (maximum packet size) of $\text{unit_size} \times Z$, where Z is a positive integer representing the total number of units per buffer, respectively (paragraph 25). Examiner notes that computer memory by definition is organized into a plurality of fixed size units (typically bytes).

10. Regarding claim 3-5, 7, applicant's admitted prior art and Terry combined disclose claim 1, and Terry further discloses counting NAK in a certain time period as a quality indicator to determine quality of channel and corresponding buffer sizes (paragraph 31). Applicant's admitted prior art and Terry does not disclose explicitly the specific hardware, as claimed by applicant, for implementing the method. However, such hardware would have been obvious design choices for a person of ordinary skill in the art in light of the teachings of Terry and applicant's admitted prior art. For example,

Art Unit: 2182

a timer would be needed to track the time period taught by Terry, a counter would be needed to keep the count of NAK signals taught by Terry.

11. Regarding claim 8, applicant's admitted prior art and Terry combined disclose claim 1 and Terry further discloses wherein the buffers are first-in, first-out (FIFO) buffers (paragraph 12).

12. Regarding claims 9, 12-16, examiner notes that these claims contain limitations that are substantially similar to the above rejected claims, the same grounds of rejection are applied. Note for claim 13 that applicant's admitted prior art disclose using SIE (serial interface engine; figure 2, paragraph 8) as interface to a USB host.

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 6 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. See previous office action for reasons for allowance.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Sun whose telephone number is (571) 272-2675. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 10:30am-7pm.

Art Unit: 2182

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim N. Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark Redman
3/15/07

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